

C O N F I D E N T I A L

REPORT NO.

50X1

50X1

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 23 Nov. 1953

SUBJECT Communist Scholarships

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

50X1

DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCE SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

1. One of the most important factors in the system employed in the People's Democracies was pretense or make-believe. The Communists in Hungary, like their comrades in other Satellite countries, used to camouflage or sugar-coat their activities to conceal the real purpose from the Hungarians and the West. The idea, of course, was to make the Communist State appear desirable to the native populations in the People's Democracies and to the West. The Hungarians however, were no longer fooled by the so-called "lie packages" offered by the Communists because they had been disgusted too many times with the contents.
2. One of the most attractive "lie packages" was offered to students in the form of scholarships. The Communists bragged about the large percentage of their college and university students who got scholarships and did not have to pay any school fees. They claimed that this was one indication that the Socialist State gives many more benefits to the public than the richest of "imperialistic" countries. As a matter of fact, the scholarships were created neither for the benefit of the country nor its youth, but purely for the benefit of the Communist Party itself.
3. Since wages in Communist Hungary were too low for a father alone to provide even the necessities for his family, every able-bodied member had to work. There was no way for a child to eat and study too, except to apply to the state for a scholarship.
4. Accepting a state scholarship meant accepting the Communist indoctrination and form of education attached to it. Students found after a few months that any desire they may have had to study a specialty had to be subordinated to the study of Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism. To keep a scholarship a student had to get high marks in all subjects dealing with Communist ideology and had to have a perfect attendance record. Communist ideology consumed so much time that students could not concentrate on their chosen fields. Further, certain established courses in various branches of science had been newly interpreted, and patterned according to Red ideology. As a result, students lost interest in their fields. They tried to cut classes and poor grades were no longer considered disgraceful. The penalty for cutting classes and poor grades was reduction in the meager allowance for billet and food which the scholarship provided. Since this allowance to begin with was enough to cover only the barest essentials, any reduction meant serious hardship.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L



-2-

5. On the other hand, having once accepted a scholarship, it was practically impossible to resign. In such a case, a student would have to be expelled from the university and obliged to pay back the whole sum of the scholarship. The obligatory refund of scholarships was rigidly enforced also when a student had completed his studies and then refused to accept the job he was assigned to do by the Government.

C O N F I D E N T I A L